

## **Appendix J.**

### **Birds in Arlington Checklists**



[Home](#)

## Birds and Birders at the Arlington Reservoir

By [Karsten E. Hartel](#). 22 April 1999

[Up](#)  
[Birder Comments](#)  
[Bird List](#)  
[Birder Survey](#)

This report is presented to establish baseline data on important aspects of the Arlington Reservoir; namely, the great abundance and diversity of bird life that can be seen in the area and use of the site by birders. This report is written to document the value of the site in these regards.



The Town of Arlington owns the Reservoir and all of the immediate land surrounding it, including an extension along Munroe Brook. The area is under the management umbrella of the Arlington Public Works Department. The Arlington Park and Recreation Commission has jurisdiction over the swimming area. Since the Reservoir is situated in both Arlington and Lexington, its wetland status is under the jurisdiction of both Arlington and Lexington Conservation Commissions. The ecology and public use of the area points out the need for a comprehensive management plan for the area. Indeed, goals in that plan could well include enhancement of the area for wildlife.

### BIRDS

The Arlington Reservoir is an important migratory area for many waterbirds and the surrounding uplands provide fair to good habitat for songbirds. Nearly 150 species of birds have been seen in the immediate area (see a full list in [Appendix 1](#)). The habitat is probably the "wildest" in Arlington and its diversity attracts the birds even though the Reservoir was artificially created.

The seasonal fluctuation in water level creates good three seasons of spectacular birds. It draws diving ducks and grebes (in the deep end) and dabbling ducks, shorebirds and herons around the weeds and mudflats (shallow end). There are no other habitats quite like these elsewhere in Arlington. At times the Reservoir draws a wider variety of waterfowl than the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Concord.

### BIRDING

Over the last ten years, birding, or in other words observing wild birds for enjoyment, has grown immensely in popularity. A recent survey shows that there are an estimated 54 million participants in this endeavor in the United States. This survey also shows that birding is participated in by more people than such traditional outdoor activities such as hiking and camping. The number of people fishing or bicycling only exceeds the number birding by three to four million participants.

In April of 1999, a survey of subscribers to local bird listservers were asked how often they visited the Reservoir between Spring 1998 and Spring 1999. The responses ([Appendix 2](#)) show that the 76 birders spent

1060 birder visits to the Reservoir. The respondents (and the people who might have been with them) probably represent only a small portion of the birders visiting the Reservoir. Expanding the sub-sample to a total estimate is difficult, but a few thousand day visits is not out of the question over a period of a year. Surely this outnumbers the fisherpeople and maybe even the recreational walkers using the area.

[ [Top of Page](#) ]

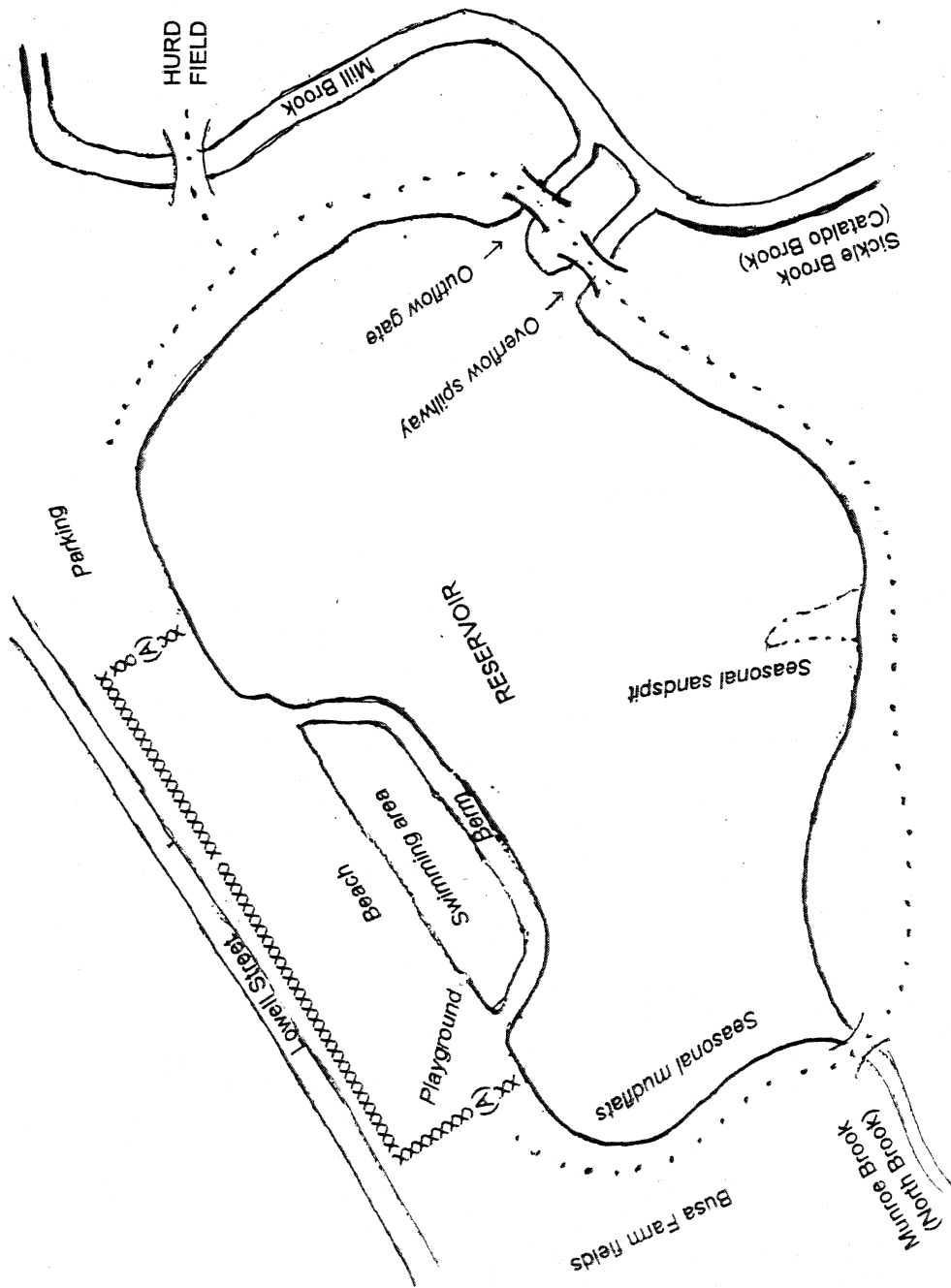
---

[ [Up](#) ] [ [Birder Comments](#) ] [ [Bird List](#) ] [ [Birder Survey](#) ]

#### Access to Reservoir:

- \* From Lowell Street (parking area open during swimming season).
- \* From Mass. Ave. via Drake Road (just past Trader Joe) to Hurd Field parking lot.
- \* From bike path alongside Hurd Field.
- \* By bus: #77 to last stop; walk 2 more blocks on Mass. Ave. Stairs behind Trader Joe's corral for shopping carts lead to bike path and Hurd Field.

Path around most of Res (dotted line) is open year-round. During swimming season, gates at (A) exclude people without a Res tag. At other times it is possible to complete the circuit around the Res without going out on Lowell Street by walking along the beach or threading one's way through vegetation on the berm.



## Birds at the Arlington Reservoir

### Swimmers

Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Cormorant  
Mute Swan  
Canada Goose  
Greater White-fronted Goose  
Mallard  
American Black Duck  
Gadwall  
Common (Northern) Pintail  
Green-winged Teal  
Blue-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
Eurasian Wigeon  
American Wigeon  
Wood Duck  
Redhead  
Ring-necked Duck  
Canvasback  
Greater Scaup  
Common Goldeneye  
Bufflehead  
Ruddy Duck  
Hooded Merganser  
Common Merganser  
Red-breasted Merganser  
American Coot  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Ring-billed Gull

### Nonswimmers

Great Blue Heron  
Green Heron  
Great Egret  
Black-crowned Night Heron  
Lesser (American) Golden Plover  
Semipalmated Plover  
Killdeer  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Solitary Sandpiper  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Hudsonian Godwit  
Semipalmated Sandpiper  
Western Sandpiper  
Least Sandpiper  
White-rumped Sandpiper  
Pectoral Sandpiper  
Common Snipe  
Turkey Vulture  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Broad-winged Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Osprey  
Merlin  
American Kestrel  
Rock Dove  
Mourning Dove  
Common Nighthawk  
Chimney Swift  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher  
Northern Flicker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Eastern Kingbird  
Willow Flycatcher  
Eastern Phoebe  
Great Crested Flycatcher

Purple Martin  
Tree Swallow  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Bank Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Blue Jay  
Common (American) Crow  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Carolina Wren  
House Wren  
Northern Mockingbird  
Gray Catbird  
American Robin  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Cedar Waxwing  
Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
American Pipit  
Warbling Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Nashville Warbler  
Black-and-white Warbler  
Northern Parula  
Yellow Warbler  
Magnolia Warbler  
Black-throated Green Warbler  
Blackburnian Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Chestnut-sided Warbler  
Blackpoll Warbler  
Palm Warbler  
Northern Waterthrush  
Common Yellowthroat  
American Redstart  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Rusty Blackbird

Orchard Oriole  
Baltimore Oriole  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Scarlet Tanager  
Northern Cardinal  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Blue Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
Savannah Sparrow  
Northern (Dark-eyed) Junco  
Snow Bunting  
American Tree Sparrow  
Chipping Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Vesper Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
House Sparrow

29 swimmers

103 nonswimmers

132

To add a new species to this list, please call  
Elizabeth Karpati at (781) 643-4172.

## Access to Spy Pond:

### Public Property:

From Mass. Ave. to Spy Pond Park:

- \* Via Pond Lane (underpass under bikeway) to playground and parking area
- \* Via Linwood (no parking area)
- \* Pedestrian access via steps from bikeway near playground

From Pleasant Street:

- \* Via Wellington to small footpath (short steep slope) or past Boys' & Girls' Club to Spy Pond Park

- \* Via Gould Road (no parking)

From Pleasant St. (no parking), or Lake St. through St. Jerome's parking lot (a few spaces at end of Spy Pond Parkway), to footpath along Route 2

### Private property allowing access for birdwatching:

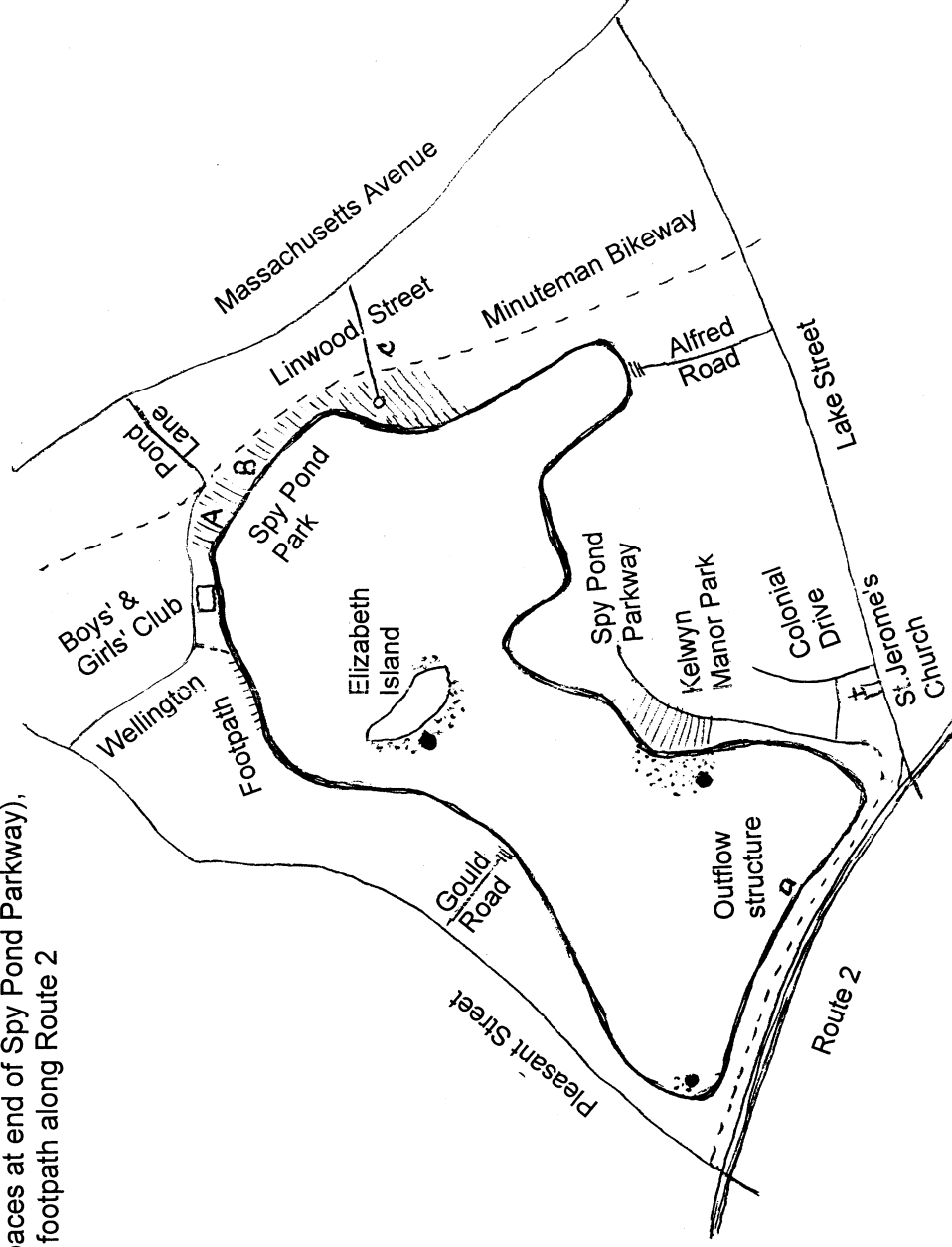
- \* End of Alfred Road
- \* Kelwyn Manor Park (small thicket is a popular stopover for spring warblers)

### Spy Pond Park:

- A Parking
- B Playground
- C Community Bulletin Board

● Phragmites reeds

● Swan nests (in spring)



## Birds at Spy Pond

Bird species identified on and around Spy Pond in the last seven years add up to 112 (see list inside); probably some more species showed up when no one was looking. Swans, Canada Geese, and Mallards are ubiquitous year-round. In winter (as long as there is open water), flocks of coots are accompanied by American Wigeons, which sometimes try to steal the weeds brought up by the deep-diving coots. A "merganser hat trick" (all three species of these fish-eating ducks seen at the same time) was scored a couple of times. A Bald Eagle visited the pond twice in January 1999 and one was seen also in January 2000. Red-winged Blackbirds proclaim their territories in the *Phragmites* reeds each spring, while Swallows and Kingbirds swoop over the water hunting for insects. In summer the Great Blue Heron stalks fish in the shallows and the Kingfisher's rattle can sometimes be heard. Baltimore Orioles, Song Sparrows, and Yellow Warblers are among the shoreline nesters, but most warblers stop by only to "refuel" during their spring and fall migrations. The thrill of sighting an uncommon bird is a daily possibility.

Vision 2020 sponsors several bird walks around Spy Pond (as well as around the Arlington Res), usually in fall and spring. Watch the *Arlington Advocate* calendar and the community bulletin board along the bikeway at Linwood Street for dates.



<http://arlington2020.org/environment/>

## Bird Species Noted on Spy Pond and along its Shores 1993-1999

### Swimmers

Common Loon  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Cormorant  
Mute Swan  
Canada Goose  
Mallard  
American Black Duck  
Gadwall  
Common (Northern) Pintail  
Green-winged Teal  
Blue-winged Teal  
Eurasian Wigeon  
American Wigeon  
Wood Duck  
Redhead  
Ring-necked Duck  
Canvasback  
Greater Scaup  
Common Goldeneye  
Bufflehead  
Ruddy Duck  
Hooded Merganser  
Common Merganser  
Red-breasted Merganser  
American Coot  
Iceland Gull  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Bonaparte's Gull

31 swimmers

81 nonswimmers

112

To add a new species to this list, please call  
Elizabeth Karpati at (781) 643-4172.

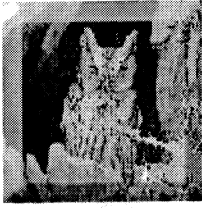
### Nonswimmers

Great Blue Heron  
Green Heron  
Great Egret  
Black-crowned Night Heron  
Killdeer  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Turkey Vulture  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Bald Eagle  
Osprey  
Merlin  
American Kestrel  
Rock Dove  
Mourning Dove  
Common Nighthawk  
Chimney Swift  
Belted Kingfisher  
Northern Flicker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Eastern Kingbird  
Northern Shrike  
Eastern Phoebe  
*Empidonax* flycatcher (species?)  
Eastern Wood Pewee  
Tree Swallow  
No. Rough-winged Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Blue Jay  
Common (American) Crow  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
Northern Mockingbird  
Gray Catbird

American Robin  
Wood Thrush  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Cedar Waxwing  
European Starling  
Warbling Vireo  
Black-and-white Warbler  
Blue-winged Warbler  
Northern Parula  
Yellow Warbler  
Magnolia Warbler  
Black-throated Blue Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Chestnut-sided Warbler  
Bay-breasted Warbler  
Blackpoll Warbler  
Palm Warbler  
Northern Waterthrush  
Common Yellowthroat  
Wilson's Warbler  
Canada Warbler  
American Redstart  
House Sparrow  
Bobolink  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Orchard Oriole  
Baltimore Oriole  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Northern Cardinal  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
Savannah Sparrow  
Northern (Dark-eyed) Junco  
American Tree Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Fox Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
Song Sparrow







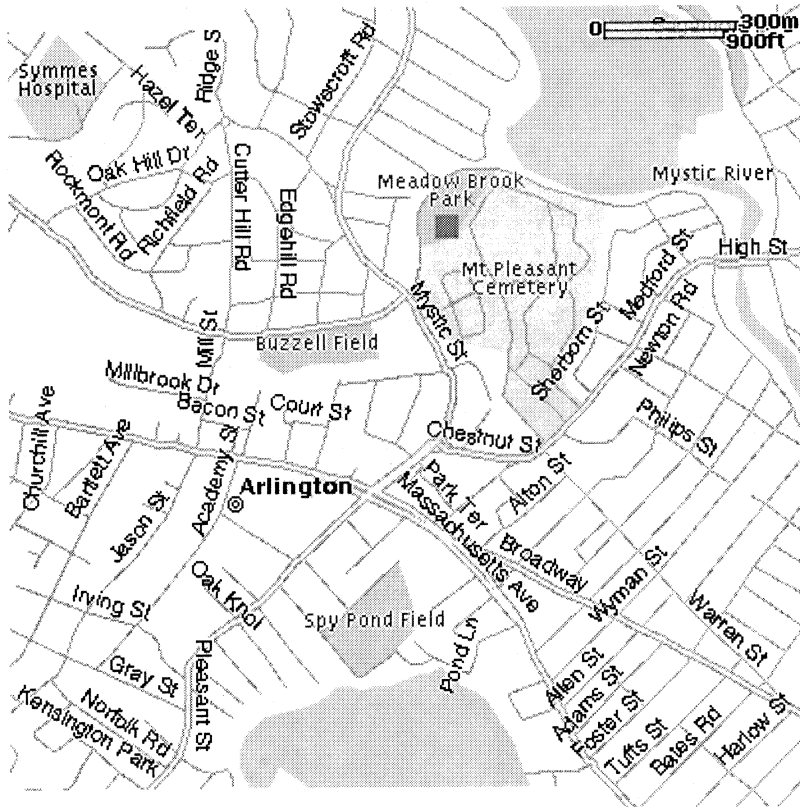
## Arlington Birds

### Birding places in or near Arlington

Email suggestions to  
[Webmaster](#).

Sign up for [ArlingtonBirds](#) (a  
listserv dedicated to local  
birding)

[List of all birds](#) seen in  
Arlington

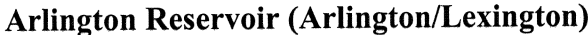


#### Meadow Brook Park (Arlington)

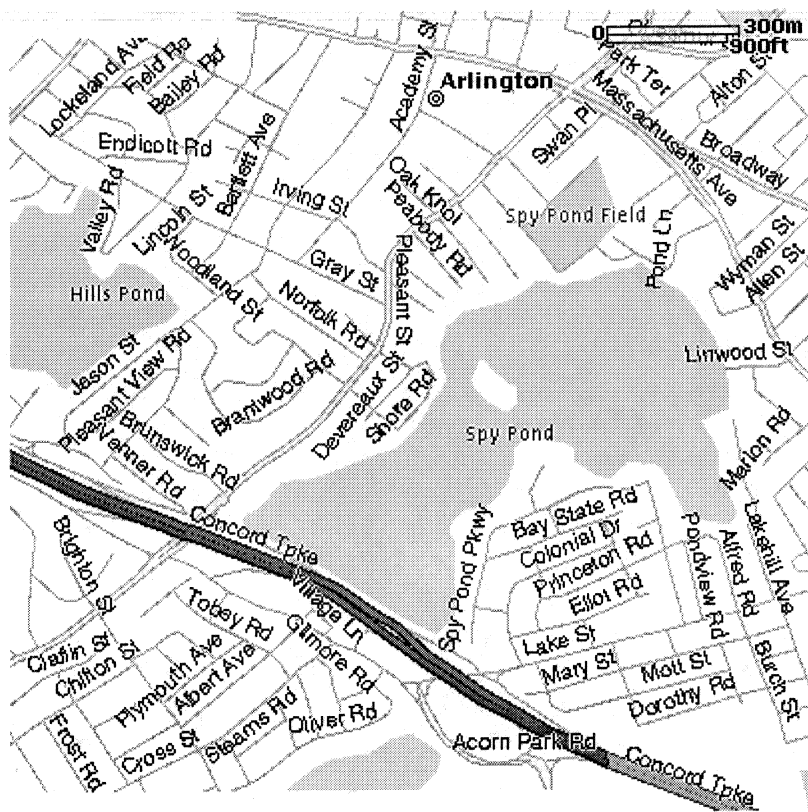
This is the official name of the marshy area in back of Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Arlington. To get to Mount Pleasant, take Mystic Street out of Arlington center, and just across from the Police Station is a tiny road called Sachem Avenue, which leads right into the Cemetery. If you take your first left when you get into the cemetery, it leads up to a brush dump type of area, which they are currently developing (evidently for more graves). Just past the dump area is the public area, with a brook and a marsh. The weedy edge of the dump is great for fall sparrows. If you take the little bridge to the right of the marsh, then turn left you will be on a road beside the marsh. Peer in there for sandpipers and herons in the fall. This section is the best Northern Waterthrush place in Arlington (spring and fall).



I haven't explored the potential of this area, but other ArlingtonBirders have, and it can be excellent in spring migration. Take Jason Street off Mass Ave, and the entrance is pretty obvious (closer to Route 2).



On the Arlington/Lexington town line just north of Massachusetts Avenue. From Arlington Center take Mass Ave to Park Avenue and turn right. Take your first left on Lowell Street. Drive past the pond and park by the woods on the left just beyond the pond (you'll have to do a U-turn in order to do so). There's a public path around the Res. In early and late winter, excellent for ducks (freezes mid-winter). In the fall, if they draw down the water enough, it can be good for shorebirds, and Pectoral Sandpiper and Snipe are regular fall visitors. The farm fields beside the pond are owned by the Busa family, who are exceptionally public spirited, and have issued an invitation to birders to explore fields for sparrows once the growing season is over. They have a farm stand, so give them your business!



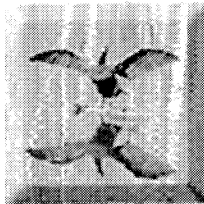
### **Spy Pond (Arlington)**

Always a good spot for winter ducks, but there is no where else in the state that I know of where you can see 200 American Coots at a whack. There is a public parking area at the end of Pond Lane (off Mass. Ave.), but try lots of vantages around the pond.

### **The Great Meadows (Lexington)**

Not to be confused with Great Meadows in Concord, this East Lexington area is owned by Arlington. Follow directions to Arlington Res, but continue past, and take your first left on Lillian Road, then your first right on Sheila Road. Take the public path at the end of Sheila. Good spot for Woodcock, and all sorts of field and marsh birds in the breeding season. Access to the Great Meadows is also available on several locations off Massachusetts Avenue.





## Arlington Birds

c= Common  
o = Occasional  
r = Rare  
x = Accidental

## Bird Species seen in Arlington

Loons, Grebes, Cormorants, Herons,

Vultures

Waterfowl

Hawks, Gamebirds, Rails

Shorebirds

Gulls, Terns

Doves, Cuckoos, Owls, Nightjars,

Woodpeckers

Flycatchers, Shrike, Vireos, Corvids,

Swallows

Titmice, Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens,

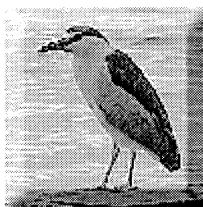
Kinglets, Thrushes, Mimics, Waxwings

Warblers

Tanagers, Sparrows, Grosbeaks

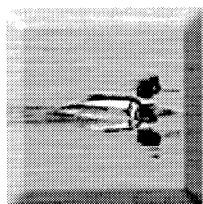
Blackbirds, Finches, Old World

Sparrows



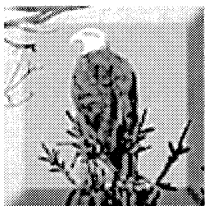
### Loons, Grebes, Cormorants, Herons, Vultures

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Red-throated Loon				r
Common Loon	r		r	r
Pied-billed Grebe	o	r	o	o
Great Cormorant	o			o
Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c	o
American Bittern			r	
Great Blue Heron	c	o	c	o
Great Egret		r	r	
Green Heron	o	o	c	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	o	c	o	r
Turkey Vulture	o	o	o	



### Waterfowl

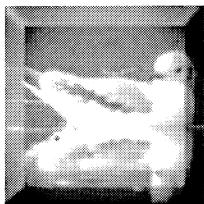
Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Greater White-fronted Goose				x
Snow Goose	r		r	r
Canada Goose *	c	c	c	c
Mute Swan *	c	c	c	c
Wood Duck *	o	o	o	o
Gadwall	o		o	r
Eurasian Wigeon	r		r	r
American Wigeon	c		c	o
American Black Duck *	o		o	o
Mallard *	c	c	c	c
Blue-winged Teal	r		o	
Northern Shoveler	o		o	r
Northern Pintail	r		o	o
Green-winged Teal	c		c	r
Canvasback	o		o	r
Redhead	r		r	r
Ring-necked Duck	c		c	o
Greater Scaup	c		o	o
Lesser Scaup	r		r	r
Black Scoter	r			
Long-tailed Duck	r			
Bufflehead	c		c	o
Common Goldeneye	o		o	o
Hooded Merganser	c		c	o
Red-breasted Merganser	o		o	o
Common Merganser	c		c	o
Ruddy Duck	c		c	o

**Hawks, Gamebirds, Rails**

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Osprey	o	o	o	
Bald Eagle			r	
Northern Harrier	o		o	o
Sharp-shinned Hawk	o		o	o
Cooper's Hawk	o		o	o
Red-shouldered Hawk	r		r	r
Broad-winged Hawk	o	r	o	
Red-tailed Hawk *	c	c	c	c
Rough-legged Hawk				r
American Kestrel *	o	o	o	o
Merlin			o	o
Peregrine Falcon	r		r	
Ring-necked Pheasant *	c	c	c	c
Ruffed Grouse			r	
Wild Turkey		r		
Northern Bobwhite	x			
Virginia Rail	r			
Sora		x		
American Coot	c		c	c

## Shorebirds

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Black-bellied Plover			r	
American Golden-Plover			r	
Semipalmated Plover	o		o	
Killdeer *	c	o	c	
Greater Yellowlegs	o		o	
Lesser Yellowlegs	o		o	
Solitary Sandpiper	o		o	
Spotted Sandpiper	c	o	c	
Hudsonian Godwit			x	
Sanderling			r	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	o	r	o	
Western Sandpiper			r	
Least Sandpiper	o	o	c	
White-rumped Sandpiper			r	
Pectoral Sandpiper	o		o	
Dunlin			r	
Stilt Sandpiper			r	
Common Snipe	o		o	r
American Woodcock *	c	o	o	
Red Phalarope	x			



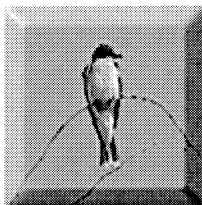
Gulls and Terns

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Black-headed Gull			x	
Bonaparte's Gull	r		r	r
Ring-billed Gull	c	o	c	c
Herring Gull	c	c	c	c
Iceland Gull	r			r
Great Black-backed Gull	c	c	c	c
Black-legged Kittiwake			x	
Common Tern		r		
Forster's Tern	x			



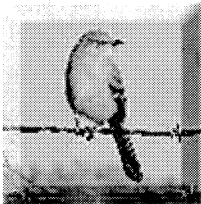
Doves, Cuckoos, Owls, Nightjars, Kingfisher, Hummingbird, Woodpeckers

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Rock Dove *	c	c	c	c
Mourning Dove *	c	c	c	c
Black-billed Cuckoo *	o	r	o	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	o	r	o	
Eastern Screech-Owl *	o	o	o	o
Great Horned Owl	o	o	o	o
Barred Owl	r		r	r
Long-eared Owl	r		r	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	r			r
Common Nighthawk	o	c	o	
Whip-poor-will				x
Chimney Swift *	c	c	c	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	o	o	c	
Belted Kingfisher	o	o	o	o
Red-bellied Woodpecker	o	o	o	o
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	r		r	
Downy Woodpecker *	c	c	c	c
Hairy Woodpecker *	o	o	o	o
Northern Flicker *	c	c	c	o



Flycatchers, Shrike, Vireos, Corvids, Swallows

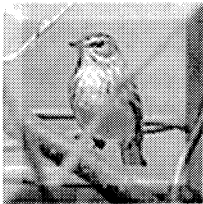
Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Acadian Flycatcher	r			
Alder Flycatcher	o	o		
Willow Flycatcher *	c	c		
Least Flycatcher	o			
Eastern Phoebe *	c	c	c	
Ash-throated Flycatcher			x	
Great Crested Flycatcher *	c	o	o	
Eastern Kingbird *	c	c	c	
Northern Shrike				r
Blue-headed Vireo	o		o	
Yellow-throated Vireo	r			
Warbling Vireo *	c	c	o	
Red-eyed Vireo *	c	c	c	
Blue Jay *	c	c	c	c
American Crow *	c	c	c	c
Fish Crow	o	o	o	o
Purple Martin	x			
Tree Swallow *	c	c	c	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow *	o	o	o	
Bank Swallow	o			
Barn Swallow *	c	c	c	
Cliff Swallow	r			



Waxwings

Titmice, Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens, Kinglets, Thrushes, Mimics,

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Black-capped Chickadee *	c	c	c	c
Tufted Titmouse *	c	c	c	c
Red-breasted Nuthatch	o		o	o
White-breasted Nuthatch *	c	o	o	c
Brown Creeper	o		o	o
Carolina Wren *	o	o	o	o
House Wren *	o	o	o	
Winter Wren	r		o	o
Marsh Wren *	o	o	r	
Blue-gray gnatcatcher	o	o	o	
Golden-crowned kinglet	o		o	o
Ruby-crowned kinglet	c		c	r
Eastern Bluebird	r			
Veery	o		o	
Swainson's Thrush	o		o	
Hermit Thrush	o		o	r
Wood Thrush *	o	o	o	
American Robin *	c	c	c	o
Gray Catbird *	c	c	c	r
Northern Mockingbird *	c	c	c	c
Brown Thrasher *	o	o	o	
European Starling *	c	c	c	c
American Pipit	o		o	
Cedar Waxwing *	o	o	c	o



Warblers

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Blue-winged Warbler *	o	o		
Tennessee Warbler	o		o	
Orange-crowned Warbler	r		r	r
Nashville Warbler	o		o	x
Northern Parula	c		c	
Yellow Warbler *	c	c	c	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	o	o	o	
Magnolia Warbler	o		o	
Cape May Warbler	r		r	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	o		o	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	r
Black-throated Green Warbler	o		o	
Blackburnian Warbler	o		o	
Pine Warbler	r			
Prairie Warbler	o	r	o	
Palm Warbler	c		c	
Bay-breasted Warbler	o		o	
Blackpoll Warbler	c		c	
Black-and-white Warbler	c		o	
American Redstart	c	r	o	
Ovenbird	o		o	
Northern Waterthrush	o		o	
Connecticut Warbler			r	
Common Yellowthroat *	c	c	c	
Wilson's Warbler	o		o	
Canada Warbler	o		o	
Yellow-breasted Chat	r		r	r



Tanagers, Sparrows, Grosbeaks

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Summer Tanager	r		r	
Scarlet Tanager	o	o	o	
Eastern Towhee	c	c	o	
American Tree Sparrow	o		o	c
Chipping Sparrow *	c	c	c	
Clay-colored Sparrow			r	
Field Sparrow	o	o	o	r
Vesper Sparrow			r	
Savannah Sparrow	o	o	o	
Fox Sparrow	o		o	r
Song Sparrow *	c	c	c	c
Lincoln's Sparrow	o		o	
Swamp Sparrow *	o	o	o	o
White-throated Sparrow	c		c	c
White-crowned Sparrow	r		o	
Dark-eyed Junco	c		c	c
Snow Bunting			r	
Northern Cardinal *	c	c	c	c
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	o	o	o	o
Blue Grosbeak			r	
Indigo Bunting	o	o	o	
Dickcissel			o	o



Blackbirds, Finches, Old World Sparrows

Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Bobolink	o			
Red-winged Blackbird *	c	c	c	o
Rusty Blackbird	o		o	r
Common Grackle *	c	c	c	o
Brown-headed Cowbird *	c	c	c	r
Orchard Oriole *	o	o		
Baltimore Oriole *	c	c	c	
Purple Finch	r		o	r
House Finch *	c	c	c	c
White-winged Crossbill				x
Common Redpoll				r
Pine Siskin			r	r
American Goldfinch *	c	c	c	c
House Sparrow *	c	c	c	c